

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. - our 45th ARRL affiliated year

February 1993

Next HCRA Meeting

The next Hampden County Radio Association meeting will take place on February 5, 1993 and will feature Chet Kalis, W1HGJ, and Stan Bates, N1INB. They will speak on ATV. Doors open at 7:30 and the meeting will promptly start at 8:00 P.M. We hope to see you there!! Don't forget about the HCRA's 5 minute "open forum" before the meeting. Discuss your concerns about the HCRA.

Feeding Hills Congregatgional
Church
Route 57 & 187
Feeding Hills, Massachusetts

The next board meeting will take place at Steve Nelson's QTH. Steve, WA1EYF has mentioned that anyone is welcome! Feel free to ask Steve or any board member for directions.

Club Officers



Board of Directors

Expiring 1993

WA1YCA Tyron Cote
KA1TBS Fred Gore
KA1QFE Bob Gutoski
N1GVV Adam Olson

Expiring 1994

KA1WER Paul Geng
NR1L Kevin Hilinski
W1ZGP Bob Lever
K1MVR Dave Olson

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IN THIS ISSUE....

President's Message	Page 2
Spotlight on The Crowd	Page 3
Future Meetings	Page 4
Article by Tyron Cote	Page 5
Club VHF Contest Scores	Page 6
Editor's Desk	Page 7



Club VHF Contest Scores - see page 6

President's Message

For those of you that missed the January meeting, our speaker Jeff Klein, WA2TEO, was excellent. He knew his subject and it was obvious he put a lot of effort preparing for the presentation. Thanks again Jeff.

We're in good shape for speakers for the remainder of this spring. Chet Kalis, W1HGJ, is scheduled for February on ATV. The Board of Directors has decided to make the March meeting "open issues" night. We believe it's necessary and appropriate to take a full meeting to discuss whatever club members wish to bring up. We are very sincere in hearing your thoughts and ideas concerning the club in general. More on this at the February meeting and next months issue. If you can't wait that long and want something brought up please call me.

The Board members also felt the first 5 minutes we took last month for "open issues" was a success and we'll continue taking the first few minutes to hear from the members prior to introducing the speaker for the night.

In April Mike Gruber, WA1SVF, from the ARRL will speak on product reviews and in May Ed Hare, KA1CV, also from the league will cover antennas, feedlines, etc.

Just a friendly reminder, the Flea Market is rapidly approaching (April 18) and Paul Geng, KA1WER, is still looking for volunteers to help out. This event has become very important to the financial stability of the club and is the main reason dues have remained at \$10 in recent years. In addition to being just a great event for everyone who attended. Many of the Board members will be helping out but we'll still need more help. If interested in participating please see any of the Board members or just give Paul a call.

Hope you like the new look to Zero Beat. We're all very pleased that Kevin, NR1L, has volunteered to temporarily be our Editor. However, he can't do it alone and is very interested in receiving articles for future issues. So please, if you have something worth sharing with club members, don't hesitate to mail it directly to Kevin or just see him at a club meeting.

Well not much from me other than I want to thank all the club members who attended the last Board meeting. I appreciate you taking the time to attend and for your input.

73, Larry, N1EPE

February Radio Factoids

2/6/1905- Ernst Alexanderson filed a patent "for producing alternating current of high frequency"—the alternator. It was to become the basis for all radio transmission, replacing spark. Alexanderson accumulated 344 patents during his prolific lifetime, his most recent in 1968 at the age of 90.

2/11/1745- Alessandro Volta, Italian inventor of the Voltaic Cell.

2/23/27- Created by Hoover, The Federal Radio Commission was designed to bring order to the chaos that was AM broadcasting.

Zero Beart is a monthly publication by the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc. Any article may be reprinted as long as credit is given to the publication and it's author(s). This issue would not be possible without the help of your board of directors, Stan Hilinski KA1ZE, and Scott Cohen, KA1QAS. Special thanks also go out to Jerry Griffin, WA1PGT, for use of his computer equipment. Thanks, Editor (NR1L).



SPOTLIGHT ON THE CROWD

A Focus on a member
of the HCRA

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAUL GENG KA1WER

1. Please introduce yourself

"My name is Paul Geng, KA1WER. I hold a Technician class radio license and have been licensed since August of 1990."

2. How did you get started in ham radio?

"The beginning of my radio communication began in the winter of 1986. I had thought about a gift for my father for Christmas. I had thought about the many hours of good times spent along the Connecticut River boating and fishing with my dad and brother. My dad would often say 'Gee it would be nice if you and I had some communication between each other when you leave your mother and I stranded on the island.'"

I soon shopped around and wandered by a local radio shop and came up with a brilliant idea! I could get a CB radio for us to communicate when we get separated. My interest in amateur radio came shortly afterward when my father-in-law introduced me to the hobby."

3. Did you have an elmer?

"Yes. I would have to say that my elmer is my father-in-law Dick Grant, KA1JDO. He is a very active ham who has been licensed for many years. He pointed out to me that there are better ways to communicate rather than using CB. He introduced me to DX and working some states on the west coast. I got a kick of how you could talk to a person on the other end of the world!"

4. What type of equipment do you use?

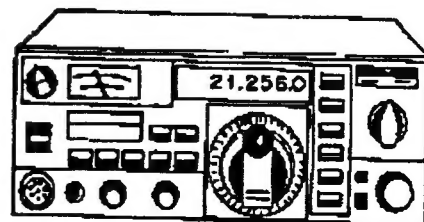
"I operate using a Yaesu FT-757 GX. I enjoy running QRP, or between 5 and 25 watts. My antenna consists of a K-40 magmount antenna trimmed for 10 meters, with an ironing board as the ground plane. I have to use an indoor antenna because of my location living in an apartment. I have tried various dipoles as well, but my experience showed that the magmount worked the best of all the antennas that I have tried."

Continued on Page 4

Spotlight on The Crowd is a monthly article by club members and for club members. It is essentially a biography of members of the HCRA. I will be selecting members each month at the regular meetings to interview for this column, using the same questions monthly and they will appear in this same format. If you would like your biography in ZB, please let me know in person, or send me your biography in the mail. (See editor's desk). Thanks, editor (NR1L).

Reminder!!

This is just a little reminder to let you know that the club call, W1NY is available for any members to use for any radio event such as contests and dxing. Just write a little note to the board of directors to ask permission.



Spotlight on The Crowd (Cont.)

5. What areas of ham radio are you most active?

"I am most active on the 10 meter band in the Novice/Tech portion. I enjoy working the DX and enjoy making qso's with my simple antenna. I regularly work my dad, KA4KIM in Jupiter, Florida. I am also active on the local 440 MHZ repeaters. I also have been involved in rover contesting and recently came in second place in Western Mass in the lastest contest."

6. What goals do you have in ham radio?

"I think my biggest goal in ham radio is to get my DXCC, QRP award. I feel this would be a great accomplishment considering my ironing board magmount antenna. I also would like to get my code speed up to 13 WPM and upgrade to general soon."

"I want to remind all hams that the most important thing in ham radio is to have fun! It should be kept simple. Remember, it is only a hobby!"

Paul Geng, KA1WER

7. What have been your major accomplishments in ham radio?

"I think my biggest accomplishment in ham radio would have to be when I built a 1296 MHZ transverter with absolutely no electronic experience. I want to thank the other club members who have helped me with this project. This just proves that there are club members out there who are willing to help people that need it. That was quite a thrill for me. I also think that one of my accomplishments has been working the amount of dx I have, considering the modest station set up in my apartment."

8. What was your biggest thrill in ham radio?

"I would have to say that my biggest thrill in ham radio is working some significant dx stations on QRP. It is also a thrill to work these stations considering my modest station set up. Most stations have no problem working some of the dx that I have struggled to contact. This just adds to the thrill when I can finally put that particular dx station in the logbook. For example, I worked 5Z4BI in Kenya on April 4, 1992. I waited 2 hours and 15 minutes for him to call me, but it was well worth the effort. We had a 22 minute QSO while other stations were begging for him. The station in Kenya was astounded to see that I was coming in so well for the set up that I am using. This just proves that anyone can get on the air. Even if you live in an apartment like myself, or have limited space for antennas. With patience and persistence you can work some of the rarer dx. Another thrill I had was when I had a 40 minute QSO with a station in Lesotho. We had a nice rag chew about his culture and lifestyle. He explained beautifully his surrounding area and countryside. It was like going on vacation without leaving my apartment."

9. What are your interests outside ham radio?

"I have several interests outside amateur radio, but ever since I got my ticket, several of them have taken a back seat. I enjoy fishing, camping, and car and boat racing. I enjoy living a simple lifestyle, as I don't like to make life too complicated. It is important to take it easy and have fun!"

Future Meetings

February- This meeting will be one of the first times the HCRA has presented a meeting on ATV or audio television. It should be a very interesting meeting for all.

March- The board has decided to make this an "open issues" meeting. The HCRA wants to make sure that everyone has a chance to voice his or her opinion about the way the club is run. Field Day will also be discussed with the dilemma of how to make this more of a club activity, rather than a few selected hams. It should be one activity in which our whole organization is involved. This way in an emergency the HCRA would be prepared to

respond. If you have any gripe at all come to this meeting and voice your opinion!

April- In April we will have a representative from the ARRL to give a product review on some of the newest toys out there. This would be a great opportunity to get an idea of what gear you should be shopping for.

May- This meeting we have planned a speaker to discuss feedlines. This is a great chance to see a technical meeting for those of you that miss seeing Tech Corner. Ed O'hare will show you all about feedlines and related topics.

Tomes of The Sage

by Tryon Cote WA1YCA

TOMES OF SAGE DISCLAIMER



This brief column is meant to provide the reader with a little common sense information. It is a widely known fact that the **TYPICAL** amateur radio operator cannot *handle* large quantities of common sense, so UNcommon sense has been included. Please keep in mind that nothing presented here has ever been tried by anyone presently living, probably or at least that (or We as some singular persons tend to refer to themselves...more on this later) know of. Even if I **DID** know, I (we) wouldn't tell, even if you made me (us) use RG-8/U on 432. Even if you made me (us) give back all the gear in my (our) shack.

NOTE: The previous was a CLASSIC sentence.

Even if I (we) was (were) forced to admit that I (we) know (knew) it was there. We (I) must finally admit that we (I) have gleaned some of this knowledge firsthand as well as heard

it dictated with the dying breath from some poor soul who learned too late and was found lying in a pool of his own caulk, wrapped in ancient RG-8/U with a recently converted CB antenna impaled in the ground inches from his still beating heart. His final words were "Always remember, when you're climbing a tower always AAaRRRrrgGGghhH!!!!!!" As you may have guessed it, he didn't die, he just didn't know how to put it into words. That's what we (I) are (am) hear (here) to (to) do (dew). Read along and please keep in mind this is mostly for fun, but ya might learn somethin'.

1. Do not climb the tower in sneakers, wear firm soled boots. Sneakers offer no support for this kind of work.
2. Do not put metal tools in your mouth while working outside in the winter. Only a trained, certified mechanic can do this and not have them stick to your lips and tongue.
3. Do not climb your tower without gloves or shoes in the winter, you'll be stuck there 'till Memorial Day.
4. Don't say **WE** when you mean **I** over the air!!! It shows a lack of operating and language skills.
5. Save empty, rinsed prescription bottles. The label can be peeled off, leaving a nasty white paper yuck spot to write on. Use for small hardware when you are fixing rigs and things you broke before returning them. These bottles can be purchased at the pharmacy for \$30-\$75 each with free pills.
6. Bring a WALKMAN next trip up the tower. Then when your leg starts that shaky, bouncy, not really hurtin' but damn weird thing, you'll have dance music.
7. Always put your climbing belt on the same way. You don't want to get confused to which side the end hooks.
8. Try plumbing solder flux on larger wire and cable that won't seem to take any solder. Better yet, buy new wire.
9. Don't forget that Floppy!! Stick it to the refrigerator with one of those magnets, next to Junior's Vaseline and Ketchup finger painting of Daddy on the tower. (kidding!)
10. Keep a litter bag in your car; when it gets full, you can throw the whole thing out the window. (kidding2!)

Tryon Cote -- WA1YCA

Don't forget the Flea Market!!

This is just a reminder that the HCRA's flea market is coming up around the corner. It will take place on Sunday, April 18, 1993, and will be held at the Southwick Recreational Center in Southwick, Massachusetts. Talk in frequencies are 449.175 AC1T/R and 146.520 Simplex. Doors will open for general admission at 9:00 a.m. and for vendors only at 6:00 a.m. We will also be conducting Radio VE Exams. It is suggested that if you are interested in taking a test that

you pre-register by calling Yorke Phillips, K1BXE. Yorke is the HCRA's VE Liaison. If you are interested call Yorke @ (413) 566-3010. General admission for this event is \$3.00. Vendor tables are \$10.00 in advance and \$13.00 at the door if available. For more information pick up one of the flyers at the next meeting or contact Paul Geng @ 114 Riviera Drive, Agawam, MA 01001. His phone number is (413) 789-2334. Please call before 10:00 p.m.

Club VHF Contest Scores

The January VHF contest is history and some preliminary scores are in. This year conditions were great and the HCRA did extremely well! It looks as if we may have topped last year's effort and hopefully everyone will turn in their logs. It is encouraged as each individual score helps to make it possible for the HCRA to reach the unlimited category. If anyone needs help scoring the event please bring your logs to the next meeting and someone will be glad to give you a hand. You can also mail the logs to Dave Olson, K1MVR. Keep in mind that because of time constraints, only a few club member's scores are listed here. The following lists approximate club member scores and may contain a corresponding soapbox.

(note: none of these scores are official until they are published in QST.)

CALL	SCORE		
W1NY	310,980		
WA2TEO	206,000	840 QSO'S	158 GRIDS
W1RIL	119,769	594 QSO'S	111 GRIDS
N1DPM	99,840		
KA1TBS/R (+KA1QFE , OP)	40,852	405 QSO'S	66 GRIDS
NA1W	23,349	289 QSO'S	43 GRIDS
N1MUW	13,000		

SOAPBOX

"This contest had great activity. I was hoping for 900 QSO'S. However, I lost two amplifiers and had to work the last eight hours QRP." (WA2TEO)

"The conditions were flat going south. It was good to work W1NY on 3456." (W1RIL)

"I received no phone calls or visits from the neighbors. I also still managed to work 14 QSO'S + 4 grids with a dead receiver on 2304." (N1DPM)

"We are still the best elevated stealth rover." (KA1TBS)

"I was extremely pleased with my score. I live at a base of a mountain, so most of my signals get blocked by the surrounding terrain." (WB1FCG)

"This contest contained everything from fires, flat tires, and visits from three policemen. This was my first rover effort. I had a great time, lots of laughs, and look forward to doing it again next year!" (KA1ZE)

From the editors desk.....

I would like to introduce myself as the new editor of Zero Beat. My name is Kevin Hilinski, NR1L. I have been an HCRA member since 1988. Currently I am a junior at Western New England College. I became interested in ham radio mainly through my dad, Stan KA1ZE. In 1987 I took a Boy Scout radio merit badge and soon became a ham. My first call, KA1QAH, arrived in the mail 9 weeks after taking my exam and I was ready to hit the air waves. I quickly began studying the ham study guides and quickly worked my way up the ham radio ladder. Within 1 year after passing my novice ticket, I became an extra class ham and soon received my current call, NR1L.

My radio interests are broad. I am mostly interested in HF contesting and dxing. I also have spent some time on packet radio, repeaters, and in selected VHF contests.

Outside of ham radio, I am interested in hiking and backpacking, auto racing, hockey, and outdoor life.

I am looking forward to providing Zero

Beat on a monthly basis. However, only you can determine how extensive and honorable each issue is. I am a busy person with school work and my part time job, so it is difficult for me to try to make up garbage information in order to fill the pages of the issues. In other words, please send me articles!!! Just keep in mind, that I need the material by the 15th of each month. I would appreciate them on 3.5" or 5.25" disk in WP, ASCII, word for windows, or text format. You could also send me them in type written format, but it is much easier for me to import articles from a disk. Also I am trying to do a monthly biography on various HCRA members. Please let me know if you want to be in it a certain month.

73, Kevin

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